Earth Observing Satellites & Conservation NGO User Group Workshop

Washington, DC
November 10, 2010

Conservation International, the Applied Sciences Program of NASA's Earth Science Division, and the World Resources Institute co-hosted a one-day workshop at the World Resources Institute on the goals, objectives, and potential conservation applications of NASA's eight most conservation-relevant Earth Observing Missions scheduled to be launched between 2011 and 2025: Geo-CAPE, HyspIRI, GPM, SMAP, Landsat LDCM, DESDynI, ICESat-2, and NPP. These missions utilize multispectral, hyperspectral, RADAR, and LiDAR instruments for monitoring terrestrial, oceanographic, and atmospheric environments.

NASA scientists from Headquarters and the Goddard Space Flight Center presented and answered questions about the missions. Over 30 conservation professionals from the following NGOs attended: African Wildlife Foundation, Center for Global Development, Conservation International, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Marine Conservation Biology Institute, Wildlife Conservation Society, Winrock International, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund. Workshop attendees were mainly GIS and remote sensing specialists from the international conservation community. They were thus current and prospective users of NASA satellite data products interested in learning about and providing feedback on these upcoming satellite missions and their new technologies, data access, and potential applications to conservation.

The goals of the workshop were: 1) to advance conservation efforts through the two-way sharing of information and ideas between the conservation community and NASA; and, 2) to advance the Applied Sciences Program's efforts to bridge the gap between the data and knowledge generated by NASA Earth Science and the information and decision-making needs of public and private organizations. As such, the workshop was a success and represents a significant step for NASA in directly engaging "end-users" in the conservation community in support of the vision of the National Research Council that NASA develop a program of science and applications that will assist in the stewardship of our home planet for present and future generations (*NRC 2007, Earth Science and Applications from Space*).

A workshop summary report with plans for follow-up activities will be posted in December.